Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

The President's Daily Brief

30 March 1972

47

Top Secret

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 March 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The death of inactive Chinese politburo member Hsieh Fu-chih underlines Peking's problems in naming personnel to key posts. *(Page 1)*

fedayeen

(Page 2)

25X1

Yugoslavia's smallpox epidemic apparently has caused Belgrade to postpone a number of large government meetings and public gatherings. *(Page 3)*

Guatemala is laying the groundwork for possible action in the OAS on British Honduras. *(Page 4)*

A new facility for producing and testing solid propellant rocket motors has been spotted in central China. *(Page 5)*

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

CHINA

The death this week of inactive politburo member Hsieh Fu-chih underscores Peking's difficulties in filling key political and military positions. According to the eulogy delivered yesterday by Premier Chou En-lai, Hsieh was stricken with stomach cancer two years ago--almost precisely the length of time he had been out of public view with a single exception in June 1971. Despite this, Hsieh continued to hold a number of sensitive posts including minister of public security and political commissar of the Peking Military Region, and in March 1971 he was designated party boss of Peking city. His tenure is all the more remarkable since there were indications in early 1970 that he was involved in the bitter wrangling between conservatives and ultra-leftists on the politburo.

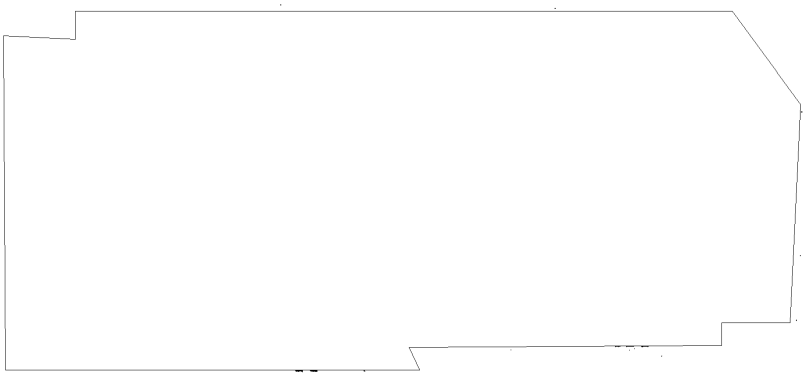
The disposition of Hsieh's positions and the filling of other numerous vacancies on the politburo are among the many leadership issues that remain unresolved even after the Lin Piao affair six months ago. Only a dozen of the 25 politburo members have been active since fall, and the effective authority of some remains open to question. Many positions are also unfilled at secondary levels in the central apparatus. Some provincial posts have stood vacant for two years.

Despite this apparent paralysis, other evidence points to the strengthening of Premier Chou En-lai and other moderates. The pragmatic domestic and foreign programs associated with these men have gained momentum in recent months. Still, the delays on appointments reflect Chou's inability to move within an area clearly within his purview as premier. It seems likely that no survivor of the Cultural Revolution and the Lin Piao affair has yet acquired decisive leverage. Moreover, Hsieh's death may tend to sharpen debate on allocating posts among moderates and radicals as well as among civilian and military figures.

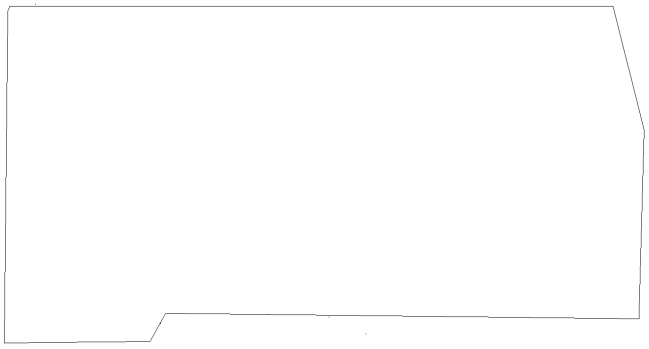
Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

FEDAYEEN - ARAB STATES



25X1



25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

YUGOSLAVIA

Belgrade has postponed on short notice an unusual joint meeting of the party presidium and state presidency that was scheduled for 28 March. Meetings of the Federal Assembly and athletic events were also delayed.

Belgrade is reluctant to convene its top officials and allow other public gatherings in view of the smallpox epidemic that is now raging across the country. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] *there are about 200 cases in Serbia, almost twice the number admitted publicly, and as of yesterday, 15 persons had died. The disease may have spread rapidly because some of the vaccines in use are suspected of being defective.* 25X1

The epidemic may be spreading abroad. A Yugoslav worker in West Germany has been hospitalized with smallpox, and the Bulgarians have closed their border with Yugoslavia and are claiming that Albania is also infected. Other countries bordering on Yugoslavia are likely to close their borders shortly.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

GUATEMALA

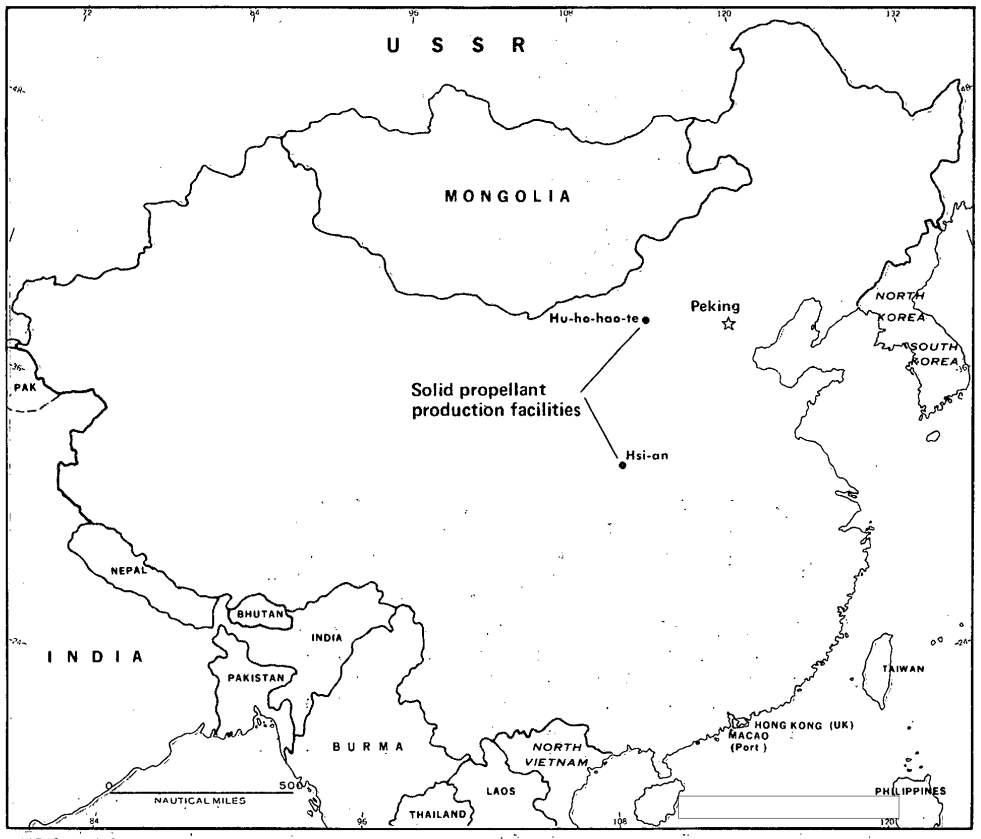
The Arana government is laying the foundation for possible action in the OAS on British Honduras. Last week it formally notified the OAS Secretary General that it had suspended negotiations with Britain. The Guatemalan note characterized Britain's plans to reinforce its garrison in the colony as unacceptable intimidation. The note was subsequently circulated among the OAS member states at Guatemala's request.

Arana apparently has not made a final decision to put the issue before the OAS General Assembly when its next session opens on 11 April. London is focusing its efforts on dispelling Guatemala's fear that independence for the colony is imminent. Officials in London told British Honduras' Premier Price during his visit there last week that the only practical approach to independence lies in a negotiated agreement with Guatemala.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

CHINA



552743 3-72 CIA

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

CHINA

Recent satellite photography shows a new facility for producing and testing solid propellant rocket motors near Hsi-an in central China. Several buildings, now in the late stages of construction, closely resemble those at China's other solid propellant production complex near Hu-ho-hao-te.

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1

Top Secret

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010500270001-1